

Thursday, March 17, 1955

## Percy Walker Honored By Friends At Town Meeting

Honored at Town Meeting Saturday was Percy Walker, who resigned from the Planning Board in December because of his increasing responsibilities as a realtor and president of the Duxbury Rural and Historical Society, a post his late brother Herbert held for many years. Kenneth Garside, introduced by Chairman Atherton Loring, Jr., of the Planning Board, lauded his untiring efforts in the interests of long-range planning, and presented him with gifts from friends and colleagues on the Planning Board. Mr. Walker received an antique weathervane, bridge lamp and a replica of a chair that is being custom-built for him by the Duxbury Furniture Company.

### Notable Career

It was Percy Walker, with the cooperation of architect Franklin Brett, Charles Clark, Mrs. Josephine Hartley Shaw and the late Dr. H. C. Bumpus, Sr., who created Duxbury's first planning board in 1926. Mr. Walker was elected to the board in 1942, and during his 12 years of service this five-man board drew up the Protective By-Laws for Duxbury which were amended last year to

increase minimum lot sizes to 40,000 square feet with 200-foot frontages.

### Water District

LeRoy Peterson, Duxbury's Water Commissioner for many years, credits Mr. Walker with spearheading the drive that resulted in the establishment of the Fire and Water District in 1914. Noting whimsically that he did it in self defense, Mr. Walker ex-

plains that he got tired of having his real estate clients call him up in the middle of the night to complain that they were without water. (They had to depend on windmills which, of course, did not function on windless nights).

Percy Walker was a member of the building committee for the high school completed in 1927, and as a member of the Rural and Historical Society he strove always to preserve the rural charm of the Town, not forgetting our stately shade trees. He was also instrumental in restricting further building on the scenic marsh extending from Bumpus Memorial Park to Blue Fish River bridge. No resident has worked harder to keep Duxbury a country town than has resisted suburban influences.

### Career

The descendant of rugged ancestors who settled in Marshfield, Percy was born in 1874, one of eight children of Isaiah Walker, a blacksmith who lived on Tremont St. next to the Millbrook School (now Legion Hall). After graduating from Partridge Academy in 1890 (the only boy in the class), he helped build Long Bridge, worked as a gardener on the Wright estate and filled in as a patrolman for a few months before attending Bryant and Stratton in 1895-96. Later, while working as a checker for an affiliate of the American Steel and Wire Company, he did not become fully discouraged until he reached Iowa. He took the earliest possible train back to Duxbury and became a surveyor for Laurence Bradford,

a civil engineer. By 1900, when he married Grace Deland, he was successfully launched in the real estate business. Two of their sons, Donald and Clarence, are associated with Mr. Walker in his realty business. Percy, Jr., and Kenneth, live in Plymouth and Worcester, respectively.

A clear and forward thinking gentleman, Percy Walker has been called "the father of advanced planning for Duxbury," and not a

few of his friends and associates think of him as "Mr. Duxbury," a distinguished elder statesman who has always fought the good fight for a good Town.

### HONORED AT TOWN MEETING



Percy Walker, who received a standing ovation at Town Meeting Saturday after he was introduced by Kenneth Garside, a colleague on the Planning Board. Photo by Robert Kleinhaus